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THE Feed SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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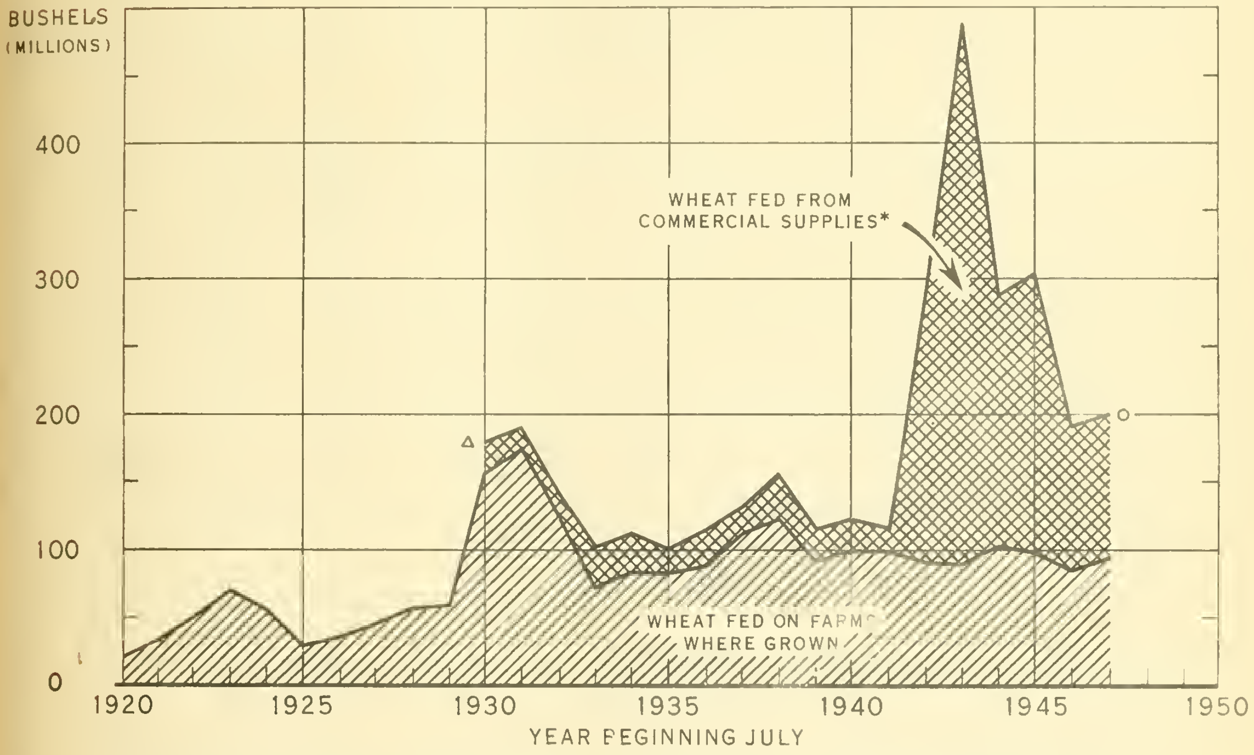
QUANTITY OF WHEAT FED TO LIVESTOCK, UNITED STATES, 1920-47



*RESIDUAL AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR KNOWN DISTRIBUTION OF WHEAT SUPPLY. INCLUDES FARM TO FARM SALE FOR FEED AND SMALL QUANTITIES OF WASTE AND LOSS.

ΔNOT AVAILABLE PRIOR TO 1930 OPRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 46756 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

During the past two years more wheat has been fed than in prewar years, but much less than the record quantities fed during the war. The quantity fed on farms where grown has not varied greatly from 100 million bushels a year since the mid-1930's. Practically all the increase since prewar has been in wheat fed from commercial supplies, including that fed under the Government wheat-feed program.

Table 1.- Statistical Summary

PRICES

Item	Unit	1946		1947		1948	
		Apr.	May	Apr.	May	Apr.	May
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Grains and Hay							
Corn, No. 3 Yellow, Chicago	Bushel	121.0	144.8	178.2	177.9	231.8	1/230.4
Price received by farmers, U. S.	"	116.0	135.0	163.0	159.0	219.0	216.0
Oats, No. 3 White, Chicago	"	79.0	84.0	92.3	98.8	125.3	1/119.6
No. 3 White, Minneapolis	"	78.7	81.9	90.2	95.2	123.2	1/115.3
Price received by farmers, U. S.	"	76.1	79.5	87.5	88.8	119.0	112.0
Barley, No. 3, Minneapolis	"	134.1	140.1	180.6	189.6	226.7	1/222.8
Price received by farmers, U. S.	"	116.0	122.0	146.0	142.0	185.0	175.0
Grain sorghums, price received by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	240.0	254.0	270.0	272.0	356.0	358.0
Wheat, No. 2 Hard Winter, Kansas City	Bushel	172.1	181.4	267.6	269.3	244.5	1/240.8
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Hay, No. 1 Alfalfa, Kansas City	Ton	29.00	32.50	36.50	35.00	35.60	1/34.50
Price received by farmers, U. S.	"	15.00	14.80	17.20	16.80	19.40	18.30
Byproduct Feeds (bagged)							
Standard bran, Minneapolis	Ton	37.75	45.25	49.10	56.75	73.75	69.10
Buffalo	"	41.55	49.40	53.80	65.40	80.90	78.10
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	2.45	2.68	3.15	3.16	4.21	4.27
Standard middlings, Minneapolis	Ton	37.75	45.25	50.40	61.00	75.10	74.75
Buffalo	"	41.55	49.40	55.00	69.10	83.10	81.50
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	2.47	2.72	3.29	3.33	4.41	4.44
Cottonseed meal, 41 pct. protein, Memphis	Ton	48.75	59.25	68.50	64.60	80.55	80.55
Linseed meal, 32 pct. protein, Minneapolis	"	45.50	55.80	82.90	69.10	72.10	71.25
30 pct. protein, San Francisco	"	47.25	57.75	74.20	68.50	87.00	86.00
Soybean meal, 41 pct. protein, Chicago	"	52.00	62.50	72.15	68.55	86.20	86.60
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.18	3.64	4.54	4.20	5.02	5.03
Peanut meal, 45 pct. protein, S.E. milling points	Ton	53.25	63.75	66.85	61.80	85.25	81.60
White hominy feed, Chicago	"	49.00	56.50	61.55	61.60	84.00	82.25
Gluten feed, 23 pct. protein, Chicago	"	41.25	51.75	58.70	55.50	75.00	74.75
Tankage digester, 60 pct. protein, Chicago	"	74.55	81.60	116.90	101.50	106.90	98.50
Meat scraps, Chicago	"	73.50	80.80	104.40	90.50	101.60	92.75
Fish meal, San Francisco	"	79.50	87.00	167.50	150.75	155.35	155.80
Alfalfa meal, No. 1 fine, Kansas City	"	44.70	44.70	40.60	39.00	41.60	37.50
Mixed dairy feed, 16 pct. protein, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.12	3.31	3.87	3.76	4.49	4.49
Laying mash, price paid by farmers, U. S.	"	3.80	4.05	4.64	4.54	5.48	5.44
Scratch feed, price paid by farmers, U. S.	"	3.60	3.78	4.46	4.41	5.34	5.29

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES

Item	Unit	1946 Apr.	1946 May	1947 Apr.	1947 May	1948 Apr.	1948 May
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Feed grains, price received by farmers, U. S.	1910-14=100	183	207	245	241	329	321
Ten principal high-protein feeds, terminal markets.	1935-39=100	166	197	249	229	275	273
Four oilseed meals	"	166	201	240	222	272	272
Tankage, meat scraps, and fish meal	"	166	182	289	255	269	258
Gluten feed, brewers' dried grains, and distillers' dried grains	"	166	199	235	229	294	303
Feed, prices paid by farmers, U. S.	1910-14=100	182	197	237	232	293	291

LIVESTOCK-FEED PRICE RATIOS 2/

Item	(May average)	Unit	1946 Apr.	1946 May	1947 Apr.	1947 May	1948 Apr.	1948 May
Hog-corn, Chicago	1927-46 = 11.5	Bushel	12.2	10.2	13.2	12.5	8.5	1/ 8.4
Hog-corn, U. S. farm price	1927-46 = 11.3	"	12.2	10.6	14.9	14.4	9.4	9.1
Beef steer-corn, Chicago	1927-46 = 14.0	"	13.7	11.6	12.9	13.5	12.3	1/13.4
Butterfat-feed, U. S. 3/	1927-46 = 22.9	Pound	27.9	24.2	22.4	20.8	20.8	21.2
Milk-feed, U. S. 3/	1927-46 = 1.15	"	1.36	1.20	1.20	1.13	1.09	1.08
Egg-feed, U. S.	1937-46 = 10.4	"	10.1	9.8	10.4	10.5	9.0	8.9

Prices compiled from Chicago Journal of Commerce, Minneapolis Daily Market Record, Kansas City Grain Market Review, and reports of the Grain Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

1/ Three weeks ended May 22.

2/ Units of corn or other concentrate ration equal in value to 100 pounds of hog or beef-steer, one pound of butterfat or milk, or one dozen eggs.

3/ Includes dairy production payments through June 30, 1946.

THE FEED SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board May 27, 1948

SUMMARY

The growing season this year has been much more favorable for feed grains than last year. Oats and barley, although retarded by unfavorable weather in some areas, have generally progressed well this spring. Corn planting has moved ahead much more rapidly than during the wet spring of 1947. Pasture conditions have been generally better than average and good hay crops are in prospect in most areas.

Although growing conditions could change greatly before harvest, expectations now are that supplies of feed grains for 1948-49 will be larger than in 1947-48. At 1942-46 average yields, production would be 20 million tons larger than last year's 96 million tons. Total supply, with a smaller carry-over, would be 14 million tons larger.

Livestock numbers and production have been declining since 1944 and probably will continue their downward trend through 1948 and into 1949. Supplies of both feed concentrates and hay per animal unit could be record highs in 1948-49.

Sales of corn from the 1947 crop are estimated at 517 million bushels, 38 percent less than the record quantity sold in 1946-47. Sales from the Corn Belt have been especially small this year and receipts of corn at primary markets for October-April were only about one-half as large as in the same months of 1946-47. Sales of oats, barley, and sorghum grains from the 1947 crops are larger than average.

Prospects for 1948 production will largely determine the course of feed grain prices during the next several months. With a favorable growing season, at least the usual seasonal decline in oats and barley prices is expected this summer, while corn probably will drop more than usual this fall. In recent weeks, feed grain prices have been about one-fourth higher than last year. They are unusually high in relation to prices of byproduct feeds, especially the high proteins.

Prices of feed grains and possibly other feeds, in the event of a good growing season, probably will be much lower in 1948-49 relative to prices of livestock and livestock products than they are now.

Canadian limitations on exports of oats and barley have recently been removed. Exports now may be made for feed as well as for food. Stocks of all grains in Canada at the end of March were smaller than a year earlier, reflecting the smaller 1947 production.

The total quantity of wheat fed in the United States during the current wheat marketing year is expected to be around 200 million bushels, a little larger than in 1946-47. The quantities fed this year and last are much below the record quantities fed during the war, when stocks were large, little wheat was being exported, and large quantities were imported from Canada for feed. Present quantities fed are well above prewar, however. Feeding of wheat may be fairly large this summer, when corn supplies will be unusually small, but the total for the entire 1948-49 wheat marketing year may be the smallest since prewar.

OUTLOOK

Feed Grain Prospects Better Than in 1947

Prospects for feed grains so far during 1948 are considerably better than in the early part of 1947. Last year a cold, wet spring retarded planting and early growth over large areas of the country, but this year the weather has been more favorable.

Oats and barley have made good progress this spring in most of the country. In the South Central Region, California, and the Pacific Northwest, however, their growth has been retarded by unfavorable weather. The condition of oats on May 1 in the 10 Southern States, where the crop was damaged by cold March weather, was 63 percent of "normal" compared with 75 percent last year and 71 percent for the 1937-46 average.

Corn planting has progressed much more rapidly this year than in 1947, when excessive rains in the Corn Belt greatly retarded the planting of the crop.

Although it is too early to forecast accurately the production and supplies of feed grains for 1948-49, present indications are that the supply will be larger than in 1947. A growing season this year about the same as the 1942-46 average would yield a total production of the four feed grains--corn, oats, barley, sorghum grains--around 20 million tons larger than the 96 million tons produced in 1947. Carry-over of corn, oats, and barley into the 1948-49 marketing year, however, is expected to be around 6 million tons less than in 1947-48, partly offsetting the larger production.

Present indications are for a corn carry-over on October 1 less than one-half as large as the 285 million bushels carried over last year. Carry-over of oats on July 1 is expected to be about 100 million bushels smaller than in 1947, and the barley carry-over may be about the same as the small carry-over last year.

Hay Prospects Favorable for 1948-49; Pasture Conditions Better than Average

Conditions of hay crops and pastures on May 1 were better than average in most regions of the country. They were especially good in the Eastern States and over most of the Corn Belt. In the South Central Region and in California, however, pasture conditions were below both those of a year ago and the average for 1937-46.

The condition of the hay crop on May 1 indicated that the 1948 production may total as much as 101 million tons, only slightly less than the large production last year. This plus the May 1 carry-over of 15 million tons would give a hay supply only a little smaller than the large supply in 1947 and considerably larger than the 1937-41 average. Since the number of cattle and horses on farms, the principal consumers of hay, probably will continue their downward trend of recent years, the supply of hay may be about the same as or a little larger than the record supply per animal-unit of last year.

Table 2 . Hay supply and disappearance per animal unit, United States, 1919-48

Year beginning May	Production	Farm carry-over May 1	Supply (production plus carry-over)	Disappearance	Supply per animal unit	Disappearance per animal unit	Roughage-consuming animal units fed annually 1/
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Tons	Tons	Thousands
1919	92,487	7,532	100,019	90,709	1.31	1.19	76,291
1920	91,668	9,310	100,978	84,617	1.35	1.13	74,766
1921	84,821	16,361	101,182	91,647	1.36	1.23	74,571
1922	95,152	9,535	104,687	93,321	1.42	1.27	73,693
1923	89,418	11,366	100,784	90,083	1.38	1.24	72,791
1924	91,454	10,701	102,155	89,430	1.44	1.26	71,146
1925	78,832	12,725	91,557	82,357	1.32	1.19	69,343
1926	76,025	9,200	85,225	76,736	1.26	1.13	67,724
1927	98,151	8,489	106,640	92,482	1.59	1.38	67,237
1928	83,842	14,158	98,000	89,327	1.44	1.31	68,154
1929	87,357	8,673	96,030	86,624	1.38	1.25	69,355
1930	74,527	9,406	83,933	76,226	1.19	1.08	70,737
1931	75,203	7,707	82,910	74,228	1.15	1.03	72,276
1932	83,721	8,682	92,403	81,485	1.24	1.09	74,628
1933	75,072	10,918	85,990	78,395	1.11	1.01	77,356
1934	60,485	7,595	68,080	63,110	.94	.87	72,613
1935	90,364	4,970	95,334	81,424	1.34	1.14	71,334
1936	70,014	13,910	83,924	77,902	1.20	1.12	69,688
1937	83,002	6,022	89,024	76,252	1.30	1.12	68,356
1938	91,420	12,772	104,192	87,821	1.53	1.29	68,191
1939	86,533	16,371	102,904	90,874	1.47	1.30	70,063
1940	96,050	12,030	108,080	93,307	1.50	1.29	72,158
1941	95,754	14,773	110,527	96,863	1.47	1.29	75,215
1942	107,717	13,664	121,381	105,162	1.55	1.34	78,206
1943	103,128	16,219	119,347	105,514	1.50	1.33	79,579
1944	102,745	13,833	116,578	100,686	1.48	1.28	78,726
1945	108,539	15,892	124,431	103,824	1.65	1.38	75,342
1946	100,739	20,607	121,346	105,353	1.67	1.45	72,839
1947	102,500	15,974	118,474	103,377	1.69	1.47	70,198
1948 2/	101,000	15,097	2/116,097				

1/ New series, published in "Animal Units of Livestock Fed Annually, 1919-20 to 1946-47", November 1947. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Livestock were weighted as follows: Numbers on January 1 of milk cows 2 years old and over, 1.00; heifers and heifer calves, .42; beef cows 2 years old and over, .89; cattle on feed, .32; all other cattle, .42; stock sheep, .20; horses and mules 2 years old and over, .76; horse and mule colts, .41; hogs, .01; chickens, .0012; sheep and lambs on feed, .058; goats clipped, .20; turkeys produced during the year, .0024.

2/ Preliminary, based on conditions in May.

Farm Sales of Corn Smallest Since 1940; Sales of Other Feed Grains Above Average

Reports in early May indicate that farm sales of corn from the 1947 crop will total about 517 million bushels. This would be 38 percent smaller than the record sales in 1946-47 and the smallest since 1940. Sales of corn were reduced greatly this year in the Corn Belt States, particularly in Iowa. Iowa farmers indicate that their total sales will be only a little more than one-third the record quantity they sold in 1946-47 and less than half of the 1938-42 average. In a number of the Southeastern States, on the other hand, total sales of corn by farmers will be larger than last year.

The small quantities of corn sold from the Corn Belt are resulting in small receipts of corn at principal markets. During October-April, receipts of corn at 12 primary markets totaled 138 million bushels, only about one-half as much as for the same months of 1946-47. Receipts so far this year have been smaller in relation to sales than in most recent years, indicating that at least the usual percentage of total sales has gone into farm-to-farm movement.

Sales of other feed grains by farmers from the 1947 crops are estimated to be larger than average, both in total quantity and as a percentage of the crop. Oats sales from the 1947 crop, although down from the large sales in the previous two years, are greater than in any other year since 1925, and two-thirds above the 1938-42 average. Barley sales this year are the second largest in quantity and the largest percentage of the crop ever sold. They reflect the strong demand for malting and the relatively high prices of barley this year. Sales of grain sorghums have been only slightly smaller than the large sales last year and the third largest on record.

Table 3.- Feed grains: Quantities sold from farms, average for crops of 1938-42, annual 1943-47

Grain	Crop of					
	Average 1938-42	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947 preliminary
	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.
Corn	553.8	558.1	730.0	606.0	828.2	517.1
Oats	204.7	222.6	251.1	391.0	381.6	341.8
Barley	128.1	143.6	139.3	152.2	151.4	165.6
Sorghum grains	25.7	55.7	104.4	54.2	66.8	65.3

Smaller Livestock Numbers and Production Reducing Feed Requirements

Production of livestock and livestock products continues to decline, reflecting a drop in numbers, the small 1947-48 feed supply compared with other recent years, and the unfavorable livestock-feed price ratios. The downward trend in livestock numbers and production, underway since 1944, is expected to continue through 1948 and into 1949. Fewer livestock on farms in 1948-49, with large feed crops, probably will lead to liberal feeding per animal.

Since slightly fewer hogs were on farms this year than last and the 1948 pig crop is expected to be smaller than the 1947 crop, both hog production this year and hog numbers at the close of the year probably will be down from a year earlier. Feed requirements for hogs are expected to be smaller than in other recent years, at least until the middle of next year, when 1949 spring pigs will begin consuming feed in volume.

Cattle numbers on farms January 1 were about 3 percent less than on January 1, 1947. On April 1, the number of dairy cows in herds of crop reporters was smaller than a year earlier and cows were being fed 9 percent less feed concentrates. Milk production in April was 4 percent less than a year ago. About 25 percent fewer cattle were on grain feed for market in the Corn Belt on April 1 this year than last. Cattle numbers and production will continue smaller than last year, but more animals will go on grain feed this fall if feed crops are large.

Poultry numbers and production, excepting broilers, also are being reduced. The number of chicks and young chickens on farms on May 1 was about 17 percent smaller than a year ago. The number of layers on hand in April was about 2 percent smaller. Egg production has been a little smaller in recent months than a year earlier and is expected to be less during the remainder of 1948 than in the same period of 1947.

All livestock-feed ratios have been below average in recent months. In May, the United States average hog-corn price ratio was 9.1 compared with 12.1 for the 1927-46 May average. The butterfat-feed and the egg-feed price ratios are still well below average, even though they have improved recently, after allowing for the usual seasonal pattern. Livestock-feed price ratios are expected to continue below average during the next few months. But, if the growing season for crops continues favorable, livestock-feed price relationships are likely to look much better to livestock producers by the last quarter of this year.

Prices of Feed Grains Continue High Relative to Protein Feeds

A prominent feature of feed price relationships so far this feeding season has been the unusually high prices of feed grains relative to the byproduct feeds, particularly the high proteins. This relationship appears to be largely the result of the comparatively small supply of feed grains and relatively larger supplies of the protein feeds.

Feed grain prices in recent weeks have been fairly stable at about one-fourth higher than a year ago. Prices of high protein feeds also are higher than in early 1947, but the increase is much smaller than for feed grains. Wheat prices are lower than a year ago.

For the three weeks ended May 22, the price of No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago averaged $2.30 per bushel or $82.29 per ton. The price of barley was higher per ton than corn, while oats prices were somewhat lower. Prices of most of the oilseed meals, usually well above corn, were much closer to corn prices this May. Linseed meal at Minneapolis has been especially low relative to other feeds. In May it was about $11.00 per ton or 13 percent lower than No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago, whereas during 1937-46 linseed meal averaged $6.61 per ton or 19 percent higher. Tankage and meat scraps prices also were unusually low in May relative to prices of corn and other feed grains.

The course of feed grain prices during the next several months will be determined largely by prospects for the 1948 crops. With a continuation of favorable weather this summer and fall, more than the usual decline is expected in feed grain prices between now and the last quarter of the year. Prices of high protein feeds and other byproduct feeds may decline along with feed grain prices, but they probably will regain a more nearly normal relationship to feed grain prices.

Table 4.- Prices per ton of specified feeds in May, compared with price of corn, average 1937-46, annual 1947-48 1/

Feeds	May					
				Percentage of price of corn		
	Average 1937-46	1947	1948 2/	Average 1937-46	1947	1948 2/
	Dollars per ton	Dollars per ton	Dollars per ton	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, No. 3 Yellow, Chicago	34.01	63.54	82.29	100.0	100.0	100.0
Oats, No. 3 White, Chicago	34.14	61.75	74.75	100.4	97.2	90.8
Barley, No. 3, Minneapolis	36.75	79.00	92.83	108.1	124.3	112.8
Wheat, No. 2 Hd. Winter, Kansas City	41.23	89.77	80.26	121.2	141.3	97.5
Bran, Standard, Chicago	32.72	61.10	73.33	96.2	96.2	89.1
Middlings, Standard, Chicago	33.68	64.10	77.33	99.0	100.9	94.0
Gluten feed, 23 percent, Chicago	31.10	55.50	74.83	91.4	87.3	90.9
Soybean meal, 41 percent, Chicago	40.30	68.55	86.30	118.5	107.9	104.9
Cottonseed meal, 41 percent, Memphis	36.83	64.60	80.33	108.3	101.7	97.6
Linseed meal, 32 percent, Minneapolis	40.62	69.10	71.33	119.4	108.8	86.7
Tankage digester, 60 percent, Chicago	63.10	101.50	98.83	185.5	159.7	120.1
Meat scraps, Chicago	61.14	90.50	92.83	179.8	142.4	112.8

1/ Wholesale prices, byproduct feeds bagged.
2/ Three weeks ended May 22.

Loan Rates Announced on 1948 Crops of Oats, Barley, and Grain Sorghums

Government price support programs were announced on May 21 for 1948 crops of oats, barley, and grain sorghums. The loan rates, although varying by counties and States, average 70 cents per bushel for oats, $1.15 per bushel for barley, and $2.31 per hundred pounds for grain sorghums.

Rates were based upon parity prices as of April 15, 1948 and upon the feeding value of each grain as related to corn. The loan rate on oats is 70 percent of the April 15 parity price, barley 75 percent, and grain sorghums 77 percent. In addition to the loan program, oats will be purchased at prices equivalent to the loan rate in a number of the Southern States.

The loan rate on 1947 oats was 63 cents per bushel, barley $1.03 per bushel, and grain sorghums $2.12 per 100 pounds. Loan rates are higher this year, primarily because of a higher index of prices paid by farmers (including interest and taxes). The prices of these grains during the past year have been well above the loan rate. Only about 240,000 bushels of oats, 337,000 bushels of barley, and 76,000 bushels of grain sorghum were placed under loan from the 1947 crop.

In May the farm prices of these three grains were more than 50 percent above the announced loan rate. Even if prices of these grains decline a little more than seasonally in the last half of 1948, the quantities placed under loan may be small again in 1948-49.

Canadian Grain Stocks Small; Spring Seeding Delayed

Stocks of all grains in Canada March 31 were smaller than on that day in 1947. Production of grains in 1947, particularly of wheat and oats, was smaller than in 1946. Stocks of oats on March 31 were about 26 percent less than the stocks at that time a year ago. Barley stocks were about 5 percent smaller. The change in March 31 stocks, however, was considerably less than the difference in supplies at the beginning of the two crop seasons. Compared with a year earlier there has been a substantial reduction in domestic use as well as smaller exports.

Exports of oats and barley have been under strict control during the current season. The United States has imported very little Canadian feed grain during the period. The export limitations on Canadian oats and barley have recently been removed, however, and exports may now be made both for feed and food.

Seeding of spring grains in Canada was delayed during early May by unusually cold, wet weather over much of the Prairie Provinces. The first official report on seeding progress, released May 11, indicated that seeding would not become general before May 15 to 20. Flooding in the Prairie Provinces has created serious local problems, but the abundant moisture supply is otherwise favorable.

Table 5.-Canada: Stocks of grain in all positions, March 31, average 1934-43, annual 1944-48

Year	Wheat	Oats 1/	Barley	Rye
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Average 1934-43	368,199	148,635	45,038	7,126
1944	545,650	255,762	115,724	13,177
1945	504,171	243,000	89,172	5,034
1946	212,433	168,166	66,861	1,818
1947	245,995	184,210	76,945	2,817
1948	209,598	135,492	72,940	2,224

Source: Published reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.
1/ 34-pound bushels.

MORE WHEAT FED NOW THAN BEFORE THE WAR BUT LESS THAN IN WARTIME

Since 1942 more wheat has been fed to livestock in the United States than in any earlier period. From 1942 through 1947 an average of over 300 million bushels was fed annually. Wheat ranked next to corn and oats in importance as a grain for feeding during that time.

Estimates of wheat fed are made on two bases: The quantity fed on farms where produced, and the total quantity fed. The estimates of wheat fed on farms of growers, available for the years since 1909, are based on reports from wheat farmers. Estimates of total wheat fed, available only for the years 1930 to date, are derived from data on the distribution of the total wheat supply. The quantity fed is a residual, obtained after quantities used for food, industrial purposes, seed, export, and carry-over at the end of the crop year are deducted from the total supply at the beginning of the year. This residual, although considered to be the wheat fed, includes some waste, loss, and minor uses not accounted for in the distribution of supply. Also any error in estimating supply and utilization would affect this residual.

Wheat farmers will feed on their own farms about 94 million bushels from the 1947 crop. In addition, the quantity purchased for feed from commercial supplies, including farm-to-farm sales, during the 1947-48 marketing year (July-June), may exceed 100 million bushels. Total wheat feeding therefore is estimated at around 200 million bushels. This is much more than in most prewar years. The largest quantity fed between 1930 and 1941 was 190 million bushels in 1931. The 1935-39 average was 124 million.

The 200 million bushels expected to be fed this marketing year is a little larger than in 1946-47 when feed grain supplies were more abundant. It is down greatly, however, from the very heavy wheat feeding during the war years. A record 488 million bushels of wheat were fed in 1943-44, and the 1942-45 average was 342 millions. Heavy feeding during the war was the result of large domestic wheat crops with limited export outlets, and a strong domestic, foreign, and military demand for livestock products that led to an equally strong demand for feeds. In order to increase the feed supply and encourage livestock production, wheat was made available to livestock producers under the Government wheat-feed programs in the years 1942-45 from domestic supplies and from wheat imported from Canada for feed. These added quantities of wheat made up the biggest part of the large increase in total wheat fed from commercial supplies during the war years.

Table 6.-Quantity of wheat fed to livestock and difference between wheat and corn prices, United States, 1920-47

(Data for cover page)

Marketing year beginning July	Wheat fed			July-June average, United States price per bushel received by farmers			Corn price as a percentage of wheat price
	Fed on farms where grown	Other 1/	Total 1/	Wheat 2/	Corn 3/	Difference	
	Mil.bu.	Mil.bu.	Mil.bu.	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent
1920	20.6			182.6	91.5	91.1	50.1
1921	33.0			103.0	53.0	50.0	51.5
1922	49.0			96.6	70.9	25.7	73.4
1923	69.7			92.6	80.0	12.6	86.4
1924	55.7			124.7	107.5	17.2	86.2
1925	28.2			143.7	78.7	65.0	54.8
1926	34.3			121.7	71.3	50.4	58.6
1927	44.5			119.0	88.2	30.8	74.1
1928	56.6			99.8	87.4	12.4	87.6
1929	58.8			103.6	83.3	20.3	80.4
1930	157.0	22.7	179.7	67.1	68.1	- 1.0	101.5
1931	173.8	16.5	190.3	39.1	36.8	2.3	94.1
1932	124.7	18.4	143.1	38.2	26.2	12.0	68.6
1933	72.1	30.5	102.6	74.4	46.7	27.7	62.8
1934	83.6	29.7	113.3	84.8	79.4	5.4	93.6
1935	83.4	17.6	101.0	83.1	63.9	19.2	76.9
1936	88.6	26.5	115.1	102.5	103.6	-1.1	101.1
1937	112.6	19.8	132.4	96.2	65.2	31.0	67.8
1938	123.1	33.7	156.8	56.2	46.0	10.2	81.9
1939	91.7	23.4	115.1	69.1	53.6	15.5	77.6
1940	99.0	24.1	123.1	68.2	60.3	7.9	88.4
1941	98.9	17.6	116.5	94.4	73.0	21.4	77.3
1942	91.3	199.7	291.0	109.8	88.8	21.0	80.9
1943	89.8	398.3	488.1	136.0	111.2	24.8	81.8
1944	103.4	183.6	287.0	141.0	110.1	30.9	78.1
1945	98.2	205.7	303.9	150.0	116.5	33.5	77.7
1946	85.7	105.0	190.7	191.0	155.7	35.3	81.5
1947 4/	94.2	105.8	200.0	241.0	5/220.3	5/ 20.7	5/91.4

1/ Derived as a residual of distribution of wheat supply. Includes waste and loss.
2/ Weighted season average price.
3/ Simple average.
4/ Preliminary.
5/ July - May average.

The quantity of wheat fed on the farms of growers, on the other hand, remained fairly constant during the war. It has changed little since 1939. In the early 1930's wheat farmers increased their feeding of home-grown wheat over the level of the 1920's, responding to the low price of wheat compared with the price of corn and other feeds. As wheat prices advanced relative to feed grains after the depression years, wheat farmers fed less than in the early thirties, but continued to feed more than during the twenties. By the late thirties, they averaged about 100 million bushels a year, a level that has held fairly stable ever since.

The spread between wheat and corn prices received by farmers has been narrower in recent years than in the twenties. Since 1941 it has averaged about 25 cents compared with 40 cents in 1920-28. In 1942-45 the price of wheat sold by the Government for feed was nearer the price of corn than was the average price received by farmers for wheat. Although the spread between wheat and corn prices in recent years has been wider in cents per bushel than during the 1930's, it is no greater in relation to the higher level of prices.

On the consumption side, the smaller spread between wheat and corn has been a factor in the increased wheat feeding in 1946 and 1947 compared with prewar feeding, and to some extent in the heavy feeding during the war. It is likely, too, that wheat feeding is staying fairly large because farmers have become more familiar with that grain as a feed and have changed their feeding practices to include it. These factors indicate that the quantity of wheat fed may continue above the prewar level during the next several years.

The quantities of wheat to be fed in 1948-49 will depend to a considerable extent on the total supplies of both wheat and feed grains this year and the relation of wheat prices to feed grain prices. Smaller livestock numbers, now lower in total animal units than at any time since 1939, and still declining, will tend to reduce quantities of wheat fed. If feed grain supplies are large, wheat feeding probably will decline from the 1947-48 level and may be the smallest since the beginning of the war. In the July-September quarter, however, a rather large quantity may be fed, because corn supplies will be small at that time. From October through June, with more abundant feed supplies, the quantity of wheat fed probably will be lower than for the same period of other recent years. The quantity fed on farms probably will continue around the 90-100 million bushels of recent years and will be a larger percentage of the total than during the war years.

Table 7.- Feed grains: Receipts at primary markets, Mar.-Apr., 1946-48

Item	1946		1947		1948	
	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Corn, 12 markets 1/	17,118	16,036	50,592	38,482	12,030	19,650
Oats, 12 markets 1/	16,823	11,217	15,333	11,605	8,327	8,239
Barley, 4 markets 2/	8,868	5,062	7,242	9,625	5,736	5,718

Compiled from reports of the Grain Branch, Production and Marketing Administration.
1/ Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Louis, Kansas City, Peoria, Omaha, Indianapolis, Sioux City, St. Joseph, and Wichita.
2/ Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Duluth.

Table 8.- Production and stocks of specified byproduct feeds, October 1945-April 1948

Item	1945-46	1946-47	1947		1948	
	Oct.-Sept.	Oct.-Sept.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Production						
Cottonseed cake and meal	1,409.8	1,427.3	93.1	71.2	154.4	95.4
Soybean cake and meal....	3,837.3	4,085.4	397.5	382.8	351.0	338.6
Linseed cake and meal....	562.4	375.3	29.2	28.4	40.2	42.5
Peanut cake and meal	80.1	113.0	17.4	13.5	8.9	9.8
Copra cake and meal	67.6	194.5	20.7	20.7	16.8	13.6
Corn gluten feed and meal	801.7	1,040.1	92.3	87.7	58.0	56.6
Brewers' dried grains ...	211.9	228.3	16.8	17.2	18.4	18.2
Distillers' dried grains	327.9	411.3	47.0	43.6	46.5	28.0
Wheat millfeeds	4,781.0	6,099.9	556.8	493.4	424.0	1/ 400.0
Rice millfeeds	154.8	165.7	11.3	9.0	10.6	11.0
Alfalfa meal	1,252.3	887.5	40.4	42.6	34.9	55.2
Fish cake and meal	187.9	185.2	2.3	3.0	2.5	
Dry and powdered skim milk	6.8	11.3	1.1	1.2	.6	.8
Stocks end of period						
Cottonseed cake and meal	55.4	37.8	128.2	125.5	86.1	92.1
Peanut cake and meal.....	1.0	.4	11.3	11.6	4.1	5.4
Brewers' dried grains....	3.2	2.1	1.5	1.9	3.4	2.8
Distillers' dried grains	3.6	5.1	14.3	11.6	12.5	6.7
Alfalfa meal	151.6	128.1	50.9	37.1	39.9	29.0

Compiled as follows: Cottonseed cake and meal and wheat millfeeds, Bureau of the Census; soybean, linseed, and copra cakes and meals, Grain Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, derived from Census crushings report; gluten feed and meal, brewers' and distillers' dried grains, rice millfeeds, and alfalfa meal, Production and Marketing Administration; fish cake and meal from Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.
1/ Preliminary estimate.

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Table 9.-Pasture and hay conditions on May 1, average 1937-46, annual 1947-48

Region	Pasture			Hay 1/		
	Average 1937-46	1947	1948	Average 1937-46	1947	1948
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
North Atlantic	81	84	89	84	88	90
East North Central	82	80	89	84	83	89
West North Central	78	80	84	81	83	83
South Atlantic	79	82	86	79	84	85
South Central	79	84	76	78	83	83
Western	82	84	82	86	90	87
United States	80	82	84	82	85	86

1/ In 1947 and 1948 the condition is of tame hay in States where wild hay is important. The 1937-46 average is condition of tame hay.

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